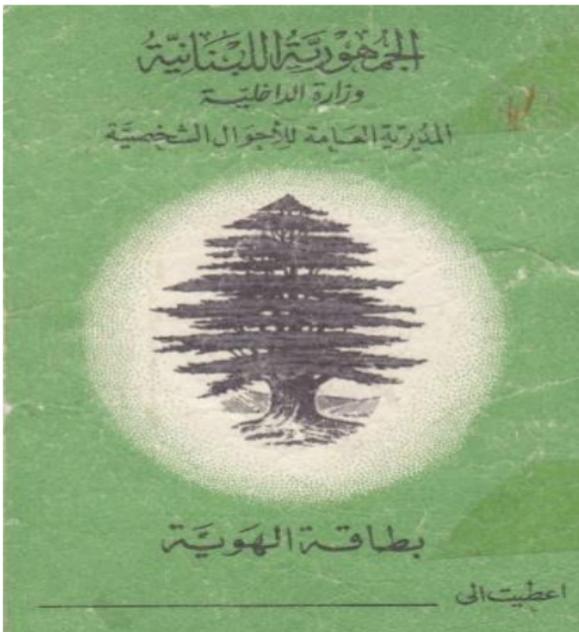


Guide for Descendants of Lebanese Origin

To Claim the Lebanese Nationality





*Issued by the Consulate General of Lebanon
in Melbourne*

2018

Why this Guide?

There are several factors that led to the loss of the Lebanese nationality to children of Lebanese origin, most important of which is the failure of some grandfathers to register their children, especially after they have been granted the Australian citizenship and integrated into the Australian society throughout generations, in addition to their lack of knowledge of the Arabic language due to the absence of Lebanese cultural institutions and schools in the country for a long time.

The Consulate General of Lebanon in Melbourne prepared this guide for those of Lebanese origin to provide them with information about the procedures for registration to claim the Lebanese nationality and to facilitate the right for claiming this nationality to those who lost it because their migrant ancestors did not register officially at the Lebanese Embassy and Consulates in Australia.

Lebanon gives great importance to encouraging descendants of Lebanese emigrants to register themselves and to claim their Lebanese nationality. Thus, Law No. 41 dated 24/11/2015 was implemented for this purpose, which facilitates these procedures by granting citizenship by decree to the descendant whose name or the name of any direct paternal ancestral/predecessors or next of kin to the second degree is clearly indicated in the records of the 1920-1921 census for residents and migrants at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Records of Emigration for the year 1932 census for migrants who neglected to claim Lebanese citizenship at the time, noting that the benefit of this law will be valid within ten years only from the date of issue.

Note that the registration referred to here is the registration of descendants from Lebanese origin in the civil status records in Lebanon, which differs from the registration of Lebanese and descendants at the Consulates and Embassies in order to communicate with them and to know their addresses to serve them.

Who is entitled to Lebanese Nationality according to the Lebanese Law?

According to the Constitution, the Lebanese nationality is given to every child of a Lebanese father who is registered in the civil status records in Lebanon and has a registration place and a registration number belonging to the city and district where he was born or to which his father belongs.

On this basis, the Lebanese nationality is granted to the sons and grandsons of the first immigrant ancestors who are registered in the Civil Acts Register in Lebanon and who have a place and a registration number based on implemented proceedings in the early 20th century for their registration.

The principle of dual citizenship is permitted in both Lebanese and Australian Laws.

However, the current Lebanese law does not allow the mother to grant her children the Lebanese nationality, but there is a law draft for this matter in the Lebanese parliament, if implemented, the granting of the Lebanese nationality will be allowed to children from their Lebanese mother.

Thus, mothers of Lebanese origin starting the registration procedures will facilitate the subsequent granting of citizenship to their children in the future.

Procedures for Registration of a Child born of a Lebanese Father

Upon the birth of a child of a Lebanese father in the country of immigration, the birth certificate or a certified copy thereof must be submitted to the Lebanese Consulate or to the Lebanese Embassy in the state where the birth took place, accompanied by a copy of an extract of Family Civil Registry record or a copy of the father's identity card indicating his registration number in Lebanon.

The same conditions apply for registering marriage, divorce or death, these documents or a copy thereof must be submitted to the Lebanese Consulate or to the Lebanese Embassy, within its jurisdiction.

Procedures for Registration of a Descendant whose Father or Grandfather does not have Lebanese Nationality

The failure of the first immigrant grandfather to register his children has resulted in the loss of the Lebanese nationality for all descendants, but all can be registered up to the current generation through the following method:

- Registration of the marriage certificate of the first immigrant grandfather and the registration of birth certificates of his children
- Registration of the marriage certificate of his children and the registration of birth certificates of their children

In order to complete this process, the descendant must know the city, village and/or district the grandfather or father descended from in Lebanon, and the registration number.

Birth, Marriage and Death certificates or certified copies relating to this matter must be submitted to the Lebanese Consulate or the Embassy, in order to be registered in Lebanon in the civil status records. All these transactions are free of charge.

How do we know the Place and Registration Numbers in Lebanon for the Registration Process?

Place and registration numbers are usually recorded on the identity card or the extract of individual civil registry record. If the applicant does not have those documents, the Lebanese Consulate or Embassy must be provided with any old documents available or any information about the names of the grandparents and the areas from which they have come from in Lebanon that may assist in knowing the registration place and the registration number.

The Consulate or the Embassy will then search for the place and registration number in their records in accordance with the information provided by the applicant, or by contacting appropriate authorities in Lebanon. The registration process starts after retrieving the registration place and number and obtaining the supporting documents. The mission will generate the appropriate certificates (such as births) and forward them by diplomatic pouch to the appropriate authorities in Lebanon for registration. Once the registration is confirmed, the Directorate General of Civil Acts will provide the mission with civil status documents, which then enables the applicant to apply for a Lebanese passport.

How can Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates be Obtained for Fathers and Grandfathers?

To complete the registration process, the Consulate or the Embassy must be provided with an official document according to the registration criteria such as birth certificate for registering birth, a marriage certificate for registering marriage, and a death certificate for registering death. In case these documents are not available, they can be obtained and reissued by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the state where these events took place, as copies of these documents are kept in their archive.

For further search on these documents, you can contact the Public Records Office in the city, the Australian National Archives office which holds important information and records that may assist in obtaining the required information, or the National Library of Australia.

What will I gain if I register as Lebanese?

- Securing the continuation of the Lebanese Nationality to children and new generations and maintaining the bond with the motherland.
- Inheritance from relatives such as real estate and transferred money in Lebanon.
- Facilitating ownership procedures and the exemption from paying taxes, contrary to the non-Lebanese ownership that is subject to complex conditions in terms of limitations of area, authorization of ownership, and high payable taxes.
- Participating in the Lebanese parliamentary elections after registering specifically for voting.
- Facilitating membership in the professional trade union and exercising this profession without obstacles in the official and public departments in Lebanon, and the possibility of working in the official Lebanese public departments and holding public positions.
- The Lebanese law has scrapped military conscription; therefore those registered as Lebanese don't have to serve in the army.

Departments that could assist in obtaining old documents

Consulate General of Lebanon – Melbourne

2/47 Wellington Street

St Kilda, VIC 3183

Ph: (03) 9529 4588

Website: www.melbourne.mfa.gov.lb

Email: melbourne.lebcons@foreign.gov.lb

Public Records Office

99 Shiel St

North Melbourne, VIC 3051

Website: www.prov.vic.gov.au

National Archives of Australia

99 Shiel St

North Melbourne, VIC 3051

Ph: (03) 9348 5600

Website: www.naa.gov.au

State Library of Victoria

328 Swanston St

Melbourne VIC 3000

Website: www.slv.vic.gov.au

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

595 Collins St

Melbourne, 3000

Ph: 1 300 369 367

Website: www.bdm.vic.gov.au

Schools that teach the Arabic Language in their curriculum:

Antonine College

Cedar Campus (Foundation-year 6)

130 Harding St

Coburg, VIC 3058

Ph: (03) 9354 1377

Saint Joseph Campus (year 7-year 12)

71 Grandview Avenue

Pascoe Vale South, VIC 3044

Glenroy Private School

93 Daley St

Glenroy, VIC 3046

Ph: (03) 9306 7988

Our ancestors migrated to Australia, with the hope of achieving their dream of a peaceful and prosperous life in this country. Through the years they managed to fulfill their dream together with their children and grandchildren by contributing to every field in this wonderful country that welcomed them.

...but their heart remained attached to Lebanon, bound with longing and nostalgia and stories they passed on to their children and grandchildren about the country of eternal cedars. Stories that kept the passion in the hearts of the grandchildren throughout the generations.

But what do we benefit from longing and nostalgia; do we keep it a memory or turn it into reality?

Let us reconnect and keep our connection by learning our language and registering to claim our Lebanese identity,

Let us be Lebanese in reality...Not only by blood....

Dr Ziad Itani
Consul General of Lebanon